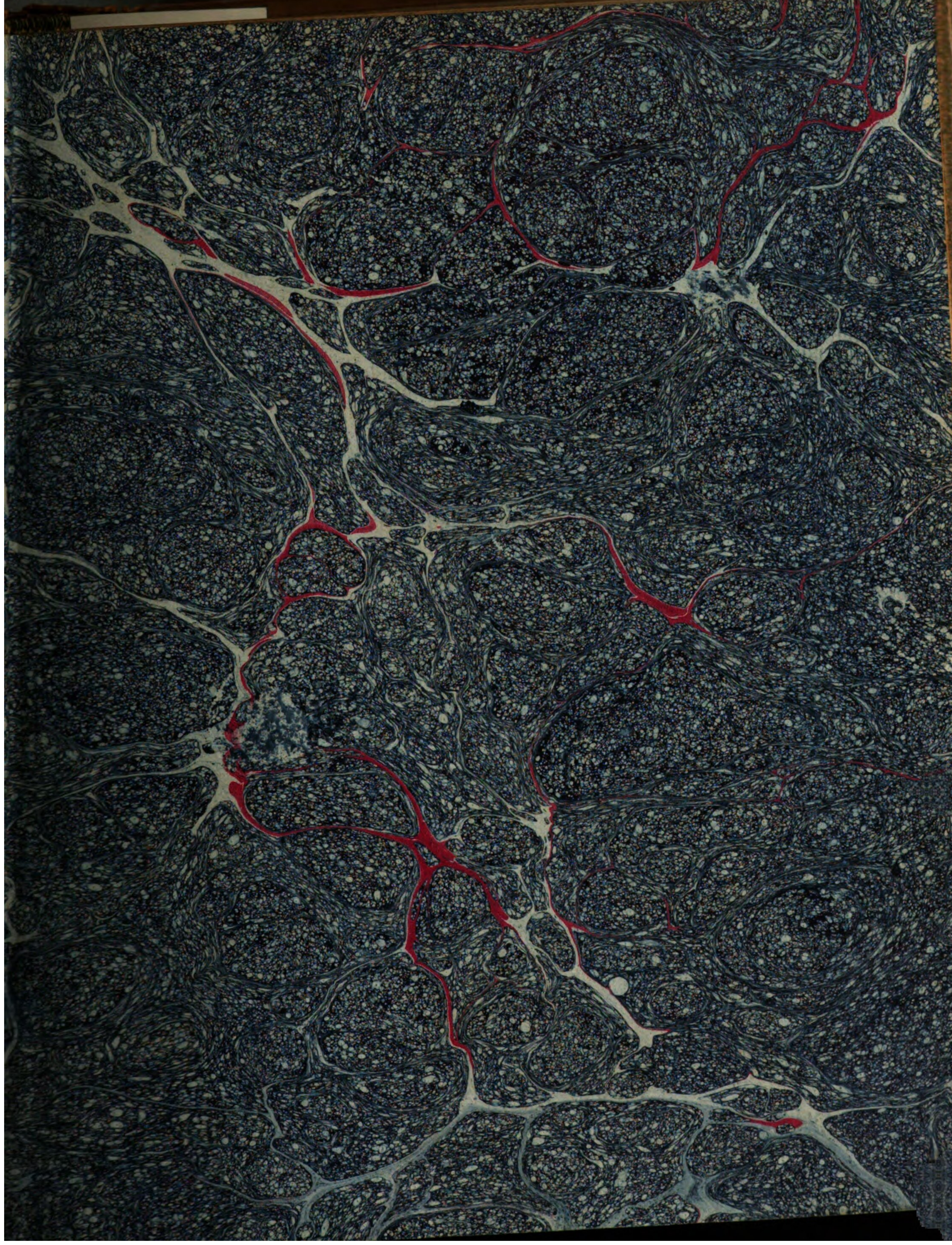


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John Plumptre.



GENERAL SYNOPSIS

BIRDS



BY G. A. S. S.

Author of "The Birds of the State"

and "The Birds of the State"

NEW YORK

A
GENERAL SYNOPSIS
of
BIRDS.

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GENUS XXXIX. L A R K.

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| N° 1. Sky L. | N° 15. Calandre L. |
| Var. A. White L. | Var. A. White-winged L. |
| Var. B. Dusky L. | |
| Var. C. Long-legged L. | 16. Mongolian L. |
| 2. Rufous-backed L. | 17. New Zealand L. |
| 3. Wood L. | 18. Cape L. |
| 4. Italian L. | 19. Shore L. |
| 5. Tit L. | Var. A. |
| 6. Field L. | 20. Rufous L. |
| 7. Louisiane L. | 21. Cinereous L. |
| 8. Red L. | 22. African L. |
| 9. Marsh L. | 23. Crested L. |
| 10. Meadow L. | 24. Lesser-crested L. |
| Var. A. | 25. Undated L. |
| 11. Malabar L. | 26. Senegal L. |
| 12. Gingi L. | 27. Testaceous L. |
| 13. Black L. | 28. Portugal L. |
| 14. Mutable L. | |

THE bill in this species is strait, slender, bending a little towards the end, sharp-pointed; nostrils covered with feathers and bristles.

Tongue cloven at the end.

Toes divided to the origin; claw of the back toe very long, and either strait, or very little bent*.

* *Gen. of Birds.*

Alauda

1.
← SKY-LARK.

Alauda arvensis, *Lin. Syst.* i. p. 287. 1.—*Faun. Suec.* 209.—*Scop. ann.* i. N° 84.—*Brum.* N° 221.—*Muller*, p. 28. N° 229.—*Friscb.* pl. 15. f. 1.—*Kram. el.* p. 362. 2.

L'Alouette, *Bris. orn.* iii. p. 335. N° 1.—*Buf. ois.* v. p. 1. pl. 1.—*Pl. enl.* 363. f. 1.

Field-lark, or Sky-lark, *Raii Syn.* p. 69. A. 1.—*Will. orn.* 203.—*Albin.* i. pl. 41.—*Br. Zool.* i. N° 136. pl. 55.—*Arct. Zool.*
Br. Mus. Lev. Mus.

DESCRIPTION.

THE length of this bird is about seven inches, and it is a small matter bigger than the House Sparrow in the body. The bill is above half an inch long, and dusky; the under mandible yellowish: the top of the head reddish brown, the middle of each feather black; the hind part inclines to ash, and is plain; the chin whitish: on the upper parts of the body the feathers are reddish brown, with the middle dark brown, and the edges very pale: the fore part of the neck rufous white, dashed with blackish: from the breast to the vent yellowish white: quills brown, with the outer edges yellowish, whitish towards the tip: the two middle feathers of the tail are blackish, with rufous grey margins; the rest not much unlike in colour, but the fourth has a white margin, the fifth white on the outer web, and the outmost the same, and on the inner web also near the tip: the legs are dusky; the claws blackish, the hind one long and strait.

The male exceeds the female in size.

PLACE AND MANNERS.

These birds are very plenty in *England*, and most probably throughout the old continent, as we hear of them in *Norway*, *Sweden*, *Germany*, *France*, *Italy*, *Greece**, and at the *Cape of*

* *Brunnich.*—*Faun. Suec.* p. 76.—*Friscb.*—*Buffon.*—*Olina ucel.* p. 12.—*Belon. obs.* 12.

*Good Hope**, and no doubt in the intermediate places, though not directly recorded by authors; very common in *Russia* and *Siberia*, even as far as *Kamtschatka*; in some parts of *Germany* much more plentiful than in any part of *England*†. I do not find any account of their inhabiting *America*; though indeed *Sloane* mentions meeting with them some leagues out at sea.

As to their manners, I can have little to add to those mentioned by Mr. *Pennant*, in the *British Zoology*; who, with his usual elegance, has said every thing; and indeed, the general knowledge which every one has of this bird, leaves no room for further investigation.

L'Alouette blanche, *Bris. orn.* iii. p. 339. A. pl. 19. f. 1.—*Buf. ois.* v. p. 20.

Weisse-lerche, *Frisch.* t. 16.

I.
VAR. A.
WHITE L.

THIS is a mere variety of the last, and is oftener found in the colder climates, at least when of a pure white; for of

DESCRIPTION.

* *Kolb. Cap.* iii. p. 164.—One sent from the *Cape* by Mr. *Masson*, now at Sir *J. Banks's*, is a trifle less than ours; and the hind claw short, though strait. *Hasselquist* says it is common on the shores of the *Nile*, and adjacent parts. See *Iter. Palæst.*

† Mr. *P.* talks of 4000 dozen being taken in the neighbourhood of *Dunstable*, between *September* and *February*; but this holds no proportion with what are at times caught in different parts of *Germany*, where there is an excise upon them. *Keysser* says, that the excise alone produces 6000 dollars* every year to the city of *Leipfic*; whose Larks are famous all over *Germany*, as having the most delicate flavour. But it is not only at *Leipfic* that they are taken in such numbers, but also in the country about *Naumburg*, *Merseburg*, *Halle*, and other parts. See *Keysser's Trav.* vol. iv. p. 315.

* About 900l. sterling.

those which I have seen, there has been a mixture of some of other colours. In the *Leverian Museum* there is one mixed brown and white, with a pure white belly, and another variegated with white all over, but regularly dispersed throughout the plumage, imitating the beautiful pencilling of the *Wryneck*; and I have in my possession one of these birds, which is wholly of a light cream-colour.

I.
VAR. B.
DUSKY L.

L'Alouette noire, *Bris. orn.* iii. p. 340. B.—*Buf. ois.* v. p. 22.—*Pl. enl.* 650.
f. 1.

Black Lark, *Alb.* iii. pl. 51.

Br. Mus.

DESCRIPTION.

IN the bird here described by *Albin**, the black was not pure, being of a dull reddish brown, approaching to black, except the hind part of the head, which was dull yellow, and some of the belly feathers fringed with white. Bill and legs dirty yellow.

I.
VAR. C.
LONG-
LEGGED L.
DESCRIPTION.

IN *Russia* is found a variety, which has been mentioned to me by the name of Long-legged. It is very like the Sky-lark,

* I am well aware of the circumstance of this and other birds becoming black by feeding on *hemp-seed*, as was the case in a *Goldfinch* and *House Sparrow*, recorded above under those heads; but this accident likewise happens by a cause less artificial, as the bird mentioned by *Albin* was caught in a net at large among other birds at *Highgate*. That in the *British Museum* is of a full deep black throughout.

but

but larger, and stands higher on its legs; it never rises, but sings sitting on the ground.

This is found only on the *Mongolian* frontiers*.

L'Alouette noire à Dos fauve, *Buf. ois.* v. p. 23.

Alouette noire de la Encenada, *Pl. enl.* 738. f. 2.

THIS is much less than the *Sky-lark*, measuring scarcely five inches. The bill half an inch; the upper mandible a little notched near the tip: the head, bill, legs, throat, fore part of the neck, under part of the body, and upper tail coverts, blackish brown: quills and tail somewhat deeper, the outer feather on the last edged with rufous: hind part of the neck, the whole of the back, and scapulars, of a rufous orange: the lesser and middle wing coverts blackish edged with fulvous.

This came from *Buenos Ayres*.

Alauda arborea, *Lin. Syst.* i. p. 287. N° 3.—*Faun. Suec.* 211.—*Scop. ann.* i.

N° 186.—*Brun.* p. 224.—*Kram. el.* p. 362. 3.—*Muller*, p. 28. N° 231.

—*Olin. uc.* p. 27.

L'Alouette de Bois, ou le Cujelier, *Bris. orn.* iii. p. 340. N° 2. pl. 20. f. 1.

—*Buf. ois.* v. p. 25.—*Pl. enl.* 660. f. 2.

Wood-lark, *Raii Syn.* p. 69. A. 2.—*Will. orn.* p. 204.—*Albin.* i. pl. 42.—

Br. Zool. i. N° 137.—*Arch. Zool.*

Br. Mus. Lev. Mus.

THIS is not so large as the *Sky-lark*, is of a shorter and thicker shape, and measures three quarters of an inch less in length: the weight one ounce. The colours are in general paler than in that bird, but do not differ sufficiently to need a separate

PLACE.

^{2.}
RUFIOUS-
BACKED L.

DESCRIPTION.

PLACE.

^{3.}
+ WOOD L.

DESCRIPTION.

* Mr. Pennant.

description: round the head is a kind of wreath, of a paler colour, at least from eye to eye backwards, which is very conspicuous; indeed in the *Sky-lark* there is the appearance of such an one, but in a much less degree: in the *Wood-lark* the first quill feather is shorter than the second, but in the *Sky-lark* it is nearly equal. The legs in the *Wood-lark* are more inclined to flesh-colour, and the hind claw, though very long, is somewhat incurvated.

PLACE AND
MANNERS.

This bird is not in near so great plenty as the first-described, and differs from it much in respect to manners: it perches upon trees, which the other is never known to do; like that, it sings as it flies, but is likewise accustomed to sing in the nights, and often so like the *Nightingale* as to be mistaken for that bird; not but it will also sing while perched on a branch. It builds on the ground, laying five dusky eggs, blotched with brown, most so at the biggest end. The nest composed, like that of the last, of dried grass, &c. lined with soft hair. It builds very early, the young ones, in some seasons, being ready to fly before the end of *March*; in this having much the start of the *Sky-lark*, which does not begin to build till *April*. Both of them make two nests in a year.

They are supposed to be a general inhabitant throughout *Europe*, as the different synonyms will testify. It was met with by our late voyagers at *Kamtschatka* *.

* *Ellis's Nar.* vol. ii. p. 229.

L'Alouette d'Italie, *Bris. orn.* iii. 355. N° 7.

La Girole, *Buf. ois.* v. p. 47.

Giarola Aldrov. *Raii Syn.* p. 70. N° 10.—*Will. orn.* p. 209. § 9.

^{4.}
ITALIAN L.

L E N G T H eight inches. The bill red: the upper parts of the plumage chesnut brown, but the edge of each feather of a reddish white, especially those which surround the hind head, which inclines much to white: breast, belly, and sides, white: eight of the middle tail feathers are chesnut brown, with paler edges; the last but one on each side the same, with a white tip; and the outer one quite white: the legs are flesh-coloured, and the claws whitish.

DESCRIPTION.

Inhabits *Italy*, according to *Briffon*; who says it had the appearance of a young bird.

PLACE.

Ray observes, that, except in the colour of the tail feathers, it greatly resembled the *Wood-lark*; and I much suspect it to be a mere variety of that bird.

Buffon * mentions a bird being shot at *Bologne*, about the end of the month of *May*, which answered to the above description. The outer tail feather in this was white, and the next half white from the tip: the hind claw half an inch long, and curved only at the point.

* *Hist. des ois.* v. p. 48.

+ TIT-LARK.^{5.}

Alauda pratensis, *Lin. Syst.* i. p. 287. N° 2. — *Faun. Suec.* N° 210. — *Brun.*

N° 223. — *Mull.* p. 28. N° 230. — *Frisch.* pl. 16. — *Olin. uc.* p. 27.

L'Alouette de prez. ou La Farlouse, *Bris. orn.* iii. p. 343. N° 3. — *Buf. ois.* v. p. 31. pl. 3. — *Pl. enl.* 660. 1.

First *Spipola* of *Aldrow.* and other *Spipola* of ditto, *Will. orn.* p. 110?

Tit-lark, *Raii Syn.* p. 69. A. 3. — *Will. orn.* p. 206. — *Alb. i.* pl. 43. — *Br. Zool.* i. N° 138. — *Arct. Zool.*

Br. Mus. *Lev. Mus.*

DESCRIPTION,

THIS is much less than the *Sky-lark*, being only five inches and a half in length. The bill half an inch long and black, paler beneath: irides hazel: the upper parts of the head and body are greenish brown; the middle of each feather blackish: over each eye a palish streak: the under parts white, but the breast more inclined to yellow, and marked with longish spots of black: the tail is blackish; the outer feather white on the outer edge the whole length, but on the inner, only half-way from the end; the outermost but one has only a spot of white at the tip: the legs are yellowish, and the claws brown.

PLACE AND MANNERS.

This bird is frequent in *England*, and, like the *Wood-lark*, perches on trees. The hind claw is pretty long, but bent. It has a fine note, though not much variety in it; yet some compare it to the *Canary-bird's*, and others to that of the *Nightingale*; and it is very entertaining to see this bird warbling in the air, and frequently increasing its song as it descends to a branch whereon it intends to perch. This we have frequently seen; not but it sings well in all situations.

It builds the nest on the ground*, lining it with horse-hair;

* *Willughby* saw one in a *furze-bush*, near the ground.

and lays five or six eggs, of a deep brown colour; and the young are hatched about the beginning of *June*.

As to its food, *Willughby* says that he found *Beetles*, and other insects, in its gizzard. It also feeds on *seeds*. *Buffon* kept one of them a whole year upon this last food only.

It is observed that this bird, the *Thrush*, *Black-bird*, *Willow-wren*, and some others, lose their note about *Midsummer*, and resume it in *September* *.

OBSERVATIONS.

The *male* differs only in being of a brighter colour.

A white variety of this bird is recorded by *Briffon* †; and one with dusky legs is mentioned in the *Br. Zoology*, shot on the coast of *Caernarvonshire*.

VARIETIES.

Olin says, that it lives only four or five years; and that it is difficult to raise. On the contrary, *Willughby* affirms, that it is long-lived, and very hardy.—I know not which of them is in the right.

I am told that the *Cuckow* very frequently lays its egg in the nest of this bird. *Dr. Heysham* informs me, that he found a young *Cuckow* in the nest of one last year. It was newly hatched. The old *Tit-lark* sat upon it, and fed it. The young *Tits*, though not quite feathered, were sitting at the outside of the nest.

Lesser Field Lark, *Will. orn.* N° 207.

Field Lark, *Br. Zool.* i. N° 139.—*Art. Zool.*

Lev. Mus.

6.

+ FIELD L.

THIS is about the size of the last, but has a reddish brown tinge throughout the plumage instead of green. The chin,

DESCRIPTION.

• *Br. Zool.*

† *La Farlouse blanche, Orn.* iii. p. 346.

throat,

throat, and breast, of a pale buff-colour; the chin plain; the others spotted, much as in the *Tit-lark*: the wing coverts edged with dirty white, and deeper than in the last bird: belly and chin both white: legs pale brown: hind claw shorter, and more curved than in the last species.

It has the same haunts, and is possessed of partly the same manners, as the *Tit-lark*.

^{7.}
LOUISIANE L.

La Farlouzzané, *Buf. ois.* v. p. 38.

DESCRIPTION.

THIS is longer than the last-mentioned, measuring at least seven inches. On the upper parts of the body the colour seems of a dull brown, but, on further examination, appears to be composed of a greenish and blackish brown, mixed: the upper wing coverts and quills blackish brown, edged with a paler brown: the tail brown; the outer tail feather half brown half white, and the last but one tipped with white: the throat of a yellowish grey: the neck and breast the same, spotted with brown; and the rest of the under parts fulvous.

PLACE.

This came from *Louisiana*, and has great affinity to, if not a mere variety only of, the last-mentioned.

^{8.}
RED L.

L'Alouette de Pensylvanie, *Bris. orn. App.* p. 94. N° 13.

L'Alouette aux Joues brunes de Pensylvanie, *Buf. ois.* v. p. 58.

Lark from Pensylvania, *Edw.* pl. 297.

Red Lark, *Br. Zool.* i. N° 140.—*Arch. Zool.*

Lev. Mus.

DESCRIPTION.

THIS equals the Common Lark in size. The bill is blackish: the upper parts of the body dusky brown: a black mark

mark passes through the eyes, and a clay-coloured one above it : the eye-lids are light coloured ; the eye dark : the under parts of the body light reddish brown, marked with dusky spots : legs dark brown : hind claw long, and somewhat curved.

This is Mr. *Edwards*'s description ; that of Mr. *Pennant* is not far different ; but he adds, that the upper parts are spotted with black, and that the middle tail feather is black, edged with brown, and the two exterior white.

This bird is common to *North America*, and is often met with in the neighbourhood of *London*, where Mr. *Edwards* first observed it.

I have never met with it, except in the *Leverian Museum*, where there is a fine specimen.

La Rouffeline, ou L'Alouette de Marais, *Buf. ois.* v. p. 60. — *Pl. enl.* 661. f. 1.

THIS is of a more slender make, and of a less size, than the *Sky-lark* : the length is six inches and a quarter : the bill eight lines. The whole of the plumage inclines more or less to rufous : the bill is yellowish : the top of the head, and upper parts of the neck and body, rufous, mixed with brown : the sides of the head and throat very pale : on each side, under the eye, are three slender brown stripes : the under parts of the body are rufous white, but the breast and thighs incline much to rufous ; the first of these is marked with slender lines of brown : the tail is pretty dark, edged with rufous : legs and claws yellowish.

This is found in *Germany*, particularly in *Alsace* ; and is found sometimes to build on the banks of the *Moselle*, in the neighbourhood of *Metz*, where it is seen every year in *October*.

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3 C

The

PLACE.

9.
MARSH L.

DESCRIPTION,

PLACE.

The name which *Buffon* has given it arises from its being frequently seen near the water.

It is said to sing very agreeably.

^{10.}
MEADOW L.

Alauda campestris, *Lin. Syst.* i. p. 288. N° 4. — *Faun. Suec.* 212. — *Brun.*

N° 224. 22. 5. — *Muller*, p. 29. N° 232. — *Georgi Reise*, p. 173.

L'Alouette de Champ, *Briss. orn.* iii. p. 349. N° 5.

La Spipolette, *Buf. ois.* v. p. 43.

Alauda minor campestris *D. Jessop. Raii Syn.* p. 70. N° A. 6.

Brach-lerche, *Frisch.* t. 15.

DESCRIPTION.

SIZE of a *Tit-lark*. The upper mandible blackish; the lower flesh-coloured: the plumage on the upper parts of the body is greyish olive brown; beneath, dirty yellowish white: the lower part of the neck and breast marked with longitudinal brown spots: over the eyes a stripe of a yellowish white: the two middle tail feathers grey brown; the others blackish; the outmost one white the whole way on the outer web, and the same half-way from the tip on the inner web*; the next has a white spot at the tip: the legs and claws brown.

^{10.}
VAR. A.

Alauda Spinoletta, *Lin. Syst.* i. p. 288. N° 7. — *Scop. ann.* i. N° 187.

Spipoletta Florentinis, *Raii Syn.* p. 70. N° 9.

Spipoletto, or *Tordino*, *Will. orn.* p. 209, § 10.

DESCRIPTION.

THIS is less than a Lark, and in length more than seven inches. The bill half an inch long, and quite black: the

* *Linnaeus* says, that the base half of all the tail feathers, except the two middle ones, is white. — *Faun. Suec.* p. 77. N° 212.

top of the head, neck, shoulders, and back, cinereous, with a dash of green: the breast and belly white: the throat spotted: the quills dusky, with pale edges: the tail three inches long; the feathers very dark; the two outmost on each side have the outer webs and tips above half-way white: the legs are black, and the hind claw very long.

This is commonly sold at *Venice*, among other birds, in the markets; and by *Linnaeus* is supposed to be a different species from the former; but *Briffon* unites all the synonyms quoted by him, tending to prove his opinion to the contrary, and that both these last are varieties of each other; but the most material difference is in the tail feathers above-mentioned, and the quills, which are much darker, and the colour of the bill and legs.—In this I am not capable of deciding, having never seen the bird.

Scopoli observes, that they build in *Carniola*, in moist places; about which some of them remain the whole of the winter * in mild seasons.

PLACE AND
OBSERVATIONS.

L'Alouette huppée de la Côte de Malabar, *Son. Voy. Ind.* vol. ii. p. 203. pl. 113. f. 1.

II.
MALABAR L.

LENGTH five inches and three quarters. The bill black: the feathers of the crown of the head are brown, tipped with white, and are long enough to form a crest: those of the neck pale rufous, marked with a streak of black down the shafts, the lower part broadest: the throat and belly rufous white:

DESCRIPTION.

* Said to be common at *Woronesch*, and about the river *Don*, in winter.—*Decouv. Russ.* vol. i. p. 249.

back, and wing coverts, brown, margined at the ends with very pale rufous, and a white spot at the tip of each: the quills and tail are dirty brown, with pale rufous margins: the legs of the last colour.

PLACE.

Inhabits the coast of *Malabar*.

12.
GINGI L.

La petite Alouette grise de Gingi, Sen. Voy. Ind. vol. ii. p. 203. pl. 113. f. 2.

DESCRIPTION.

SIZE of the Goldfinch: length four inches and a half. Bill and legs of a pale rufous grey: the plumage on the upper parts is of a greyish umber-colour: the head cinereous grey: through the eye a streak of black: throat and under parts black.

PLACE.

Found about *Gingi*, and other parts of the *Coromandel* coast.

13.
BLACK LARK.

Alauda Tartarica, Pall. Trav. ii. p. 707. N° 15. t. c.
Black Lark, Arct. Zool.

DESCRIPTION.

SIZE of a *Starling*. Bill stout, of a yellowish horn-colour; tip brown: nostrils covered with hairy feathers: the general colour of the plumage dusky black: the feathers of the head and neck edged with dusky white: upper parts of the body the same, but edged deeper with white: quills black, cordated at the tip: tail somewhat forked in shape; the two middle feathers black, with pale margins; the next pale on the edge at the tip; the others all black: legs black; the hind claw elongated, sharp, and pretty strait.

FEMALE.

The *females* and young birds are brown, not unlike the *Sky-lark*: the feathers round the bill pale; those on the upper parts of

of the body edged with grey; beneath, whitish; the middle of each feather marked with black: the quills and two outer tail feathers margined with white: legs brown.

This is found in the driest deserts between the rivers *Volga* and *Jaick*, in *Russia*, and the whole *Tartarian* desert; and is a solitary bird during summer; but as winter approaches it frequents inhabited parts in numbers together.

Its song is very trivial.

Alauda mutabilis, N. C. *Ac. Petrop.* xv. p. 459, t. 23. f. 2.

THIS species is about seven inches in length. The bill eight lines long, whitish at the base, and blackish at the tip: irides livid: the bird is wholly of a black colour; but on the hind part of the neck, the back as far as the rump, the feathers have hoary edges, and the axillary feathers of some are hoary: quills and tail tipped with brown; the last rather forked, and the outer feather not brown at the tip: the legs and claws black.

The *female* differs in having the forehead hoary, which in the male is of the same colour as the rest of the head.

In young birds the plumage is ash-coloured; in some much inclining to red, and otherwise variegated with grey; but the *females* have the hoary forehead in all stages.

This is very common at *Astrachan* in winter; flying in flocks to the more retired places near the *Volga* in spring.

I observed a fine specimen of the male in the collection of Miss *Blomefield*. The edges of the feathers were cream-coloured, and formed transverse bars on the upper parts of a beautiful appearance;

PLACE.

^{14.}
MUTABLE L.

DESCRIPTION.

FEMALE.

PLACE.

once; they were mere lines on the head, and widened as they proceeded downwards to the rump: the tail of one plain colour: the hind claw strait, and half an inch in length.

This came from *Siberia*.

15.
+ CALANDRE
L.

Alauda calandra, *Lin. Syst.* i. p. 288. N° 9.

La grosse Alouette, ou La Calandre, *Bris. orn.* iii. p. 352. N° 6. pl. 20. f. 2.

—*Buf. ois.* v. p. 49.—*Pl. enl.* 363. f. 2.

Calandra, *Olin. uccel.* p. 30.—*Will. orn.* p. 208.—*Edw.* pl. 268.—*Arch. Zool.*
Lev. Mus.

DESCRIPTION.

THIS exceeds the Crested Lark in size; and in length is seven inches and a quarter. The bill is three quarters of an inch long, very stout, and of a pale colour: the plumage on the upper parts of the body brown and grey mixed, each feather being brown in the middle: the throat is white, beneath which is a black mark, almost in the shape of a crescent: beneath this it is dirty white, marked with black: the belly is white: the sides and thighs of a rufous brown: the quills very dark, with the outer webs brown, the very edge whitish; the lesser quills partly the same, but are also tipped with white: the tail black; the outer feather is white on the outer web, and about half-way from the end of the inner; the next, bordered on the outer web with white, and tipped with the same; the third, edged with grey, and tipped with white; and the fourth, only edged with grey: the bill and legs are pale grey.

PLACE AND
MANNERS.

This is found in *Italy* *, *Provence* † in *France*, *Sardinia*,

* *Olin.*

† *Hist. des ois.*

Aleppo,

Aleppo *, and other parts of the old continent. In the *Tartarian* deserts common; and between the rivers *Don* and *Wolga*, as well as other parts of the *Russian* empire; it is also said to inhabit *America* †.

This bird is frequently kept for its song, which, by some, is accounted excellent, not only striking the ear with its own natural notes, but imitating those of others, as the *Goldfinch*, *Linnet*, *Canary-bird*, and such like.

The *male* differs from the *female* in being bigger, and has more black on the neck.

It is said to build on the ground, like the *Sky-lark*; to lay four or five eggs; and to live four or five years ‡.

Alauda Calandra? *Pall. Trav.* vol. ii. p. 708. N^o 15.

SIZE of the *Crested Lark*. Bill livid, tip brown: the crown of the head, ears, lesser wing coverts, and those of the tail, ferruginous, inclining to yellow: the under parts dirty white, varied with ferruginous on the fore part of the neck: the secondary quills are mostly white, most observable when the wing is spread; the outer one of the prime quills wholly white; the next, white on the margin: legs grey.

This is plentiful in the sunny fields in the neighbourhood of the river *Irtis*, in *Siberia*; where it makes the nest on the ground, like the *Sky-lark*; but is inferior to it in song.

* *Edwards*.—*Russel. Hist. Alep.* p. 61.

† *Edwards*.

‡ *Olina*.

Alauda.

15.
VAR. A.
WHITE-
WINGED L.
DESCRIPTION.

PLACE.

16.
MONGOLIAN
L.

DESCRIPTION.

Alauda Mongolica, *Pall. Trav.* iii. p. 697. 19.

BIGGER than the *Calandre*. Bill stout: head and neck ferruginous, deepest on the crown, which is encircled with white, and has a spot of white in the middle of it: on the throat a large bifid patch of black.

PLACE.

This inhabits the Salt Meadows, between the rivers *Argun* and *Onon*, on the *Chinese* frontiers. Is for the most part seen on the ground, and has a sweet song.

17.
NEW ZEA-
LAND L.
PL. LI.

DESCRIPTION.

LENGTH seven inches and a half. Bill half an inch, pale ash-colour, with the upper part black: the upper parts of the body are dusky, edged with pale ash-colour: above the eye a white streak; through the eye one of mottled black: fore part of the neck marked as the upper parts, but much paler: breast and belly white: vent pale cinereous: legs reddish ash-colour: claws black; hind one almost straight, and half an inch in length.

PLACE:

Inhabits *Charlotte Sound*, and called *Kogoo aroùre*.

From Sir *Joseph Banks's* drawings.

18.
CAPE L.

Alauda Capensis, *Lin. Syst.* i. 288. N° 8.

L'Alouette du Cap de Bonne Esperance, *Bris. orn.* iii. 364. N° 11. pl. 19. f. 3.

La Cravate jaune, ou Calandre du Cap de Bonne Esperance, *Buf. ois.* v. p. 54.—*Pl. enl.* 504. f. 2.

Lev. Mus.

DESCRIPTION.

TOTAL length eight inches. Bill ten lines long, and of a yellowish brown colour: the upper parts of the body and tail

Pl. LI.



New Zealand Lark.



John P. [illegible] 1854

tail are brown, mixed with darker brown, the last colour possessing the middle of each feather: the chin and throat are orange; from thence to the vent yellowish white, inclining most to yellow near the vent: over the eye is a yellowish streak, and beneath, on the ear, a dusky one: four of the outer tail feathers are white at the ends, but irregularly so; for the outer one is white for near an inch, but the fourth only at the tip: the legs are dusky: the toes pretty long: the hind claw above half an inch in length, and a little bent.

This I described from a specimen in the *Leverian Museum*, which I take to be a *female*; for I find the *males* differ a little. These have the yellow on the throat bordered with black all round; the stripe over the eye orange, or deep yellow; the breast composed of a mixture of brown, grey, and pale yellow; and the belly and sides of a rufous orange colour: the greater quills are edged with yellow, and the lesser with grey.

Buffon mentions having seen two females which had the throat of a pale rufous colour, and the breast spotted with brown.

These birds inhabit the *Cape of Good Hope*, where they are not uncommon.

PLACES

Alauda alpestris, *Lin. Syst.* i. p. 289. N° 10.—*Georgi Reise*, p. 173.

L'Alouette de Virginie, *Bris. orn.* iii. p. 367. N° 12.

Le Hausse-col noir, ou L'Alouette de Virginie, *Buf. ois.* v. p. 55.

Schnee-lerche, *Frisch.* pl. 16.

The Lark, *Catesb. Car.* i. pl. 32.

Shore Lark, *Phil. Transf.* vol. lxii. p. 398.—*Arct. Zool.*

Br. Mus. Lev. Mus.

19.
← SHORE L.

SIZE and shape of the Sky-lark: length six inches and a half.

DESCRIPTION.

The bill seven inches, and black: the upper parts of the body

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reddish

reddish brown, streaked with dusky, darkest on the head: the eyes are placed in a bed of yellow, which springs from the base of the bill, and passes over the forehead: from the bill also arises a black stroke, passing under the eye, and a little way down the neck: the throat and fore part of the neck are yellow; on the lower part of the neck is a broad black band; beneath this all the under parts are very pale yellow: the tail coverts are ferruginous, but pale, and two of the feathers nearly as long as the tail itself: the wings and tail feathers are of the same colour as the upper parts of the body, but have the edges paler: the legs and claws black.

FEMALE.

The *male* and *female* differ somewhat. In the last the back is grey, and the stripes darker: the crown is dusky, which in the *male* is nearly black. In other things they resemble one another.

PLACE AND MANNERS.

This inhabits *North America*, where it is migratory. It visits the neighbourhood of *Albany* * the beginning of *May*, but goes farther north to breed. In winter it comes, in vast flocks, into *Virginia* and *Carolina* †, returning north in spring. Feeds, during its stay in the more southern parts, on oats and other grain; and while at *Albany*, on the grass, and the buds of *Sprig Birch*. It runs into holes; whence the natives of these last parts have given it the name of *Cbi-chup-pi-sue*.

The *English* call it the *Ortolan*, and reckon it delicious eating. By some called *Snow-bird*, as being very plenty in that season. Frequently caught in great numbers by means of horse-hair springes placed in some bare place, the snow being scraped away,

* *Phil. Trans.*† *Catesby*.

and a little chaff strewed about. It is always seen on the ground, and has little or no song.

This bird is not peculiar to *North America*: we hear of it in *Germany* * also. It has been taken at *Dantzic*, both in the months of *April* and *December* †; and is in plenty throughout *Russia* and *Siberia* ‡, going northward in spring.

La Ceinture de Prêtre, ou L'Alouette de Sibérie, *Buf. ois.* v. p. 61—*Pl. enl.* 650. f. 2.

19.
VAR. A.

THIS is a very beautiful species: length five inches and three quarters. The bill above half an inch long, and of a lead-colour: the forehead, chin and throat, and sides of the head, are yellow: between the eye and bill a black spot, which passes under the eye, and unites with a larger one beneath it: the top of the head and upper parts of the body are rufous and grey brown, mixed, spotted with black on the crown: on the breast is a broad band of black; from thence to the vent whitish: the quills are grey, edged with dark grey: the upper tail coverts yellowish: the tail feathers are almost black, edged with grey, except the outer ones, which are edged with white: the legs are lead-coloured: the hind claw near half an inch long, and very little bent.

DESCRIPTION.

This inhabits *Siberia*, but is not common.

PLACE.

* *Frisch.* † *Hist. des ois.*

‡ *Decouv. Russ.* vol. i. p. 102. vol. iv. p. 459, &c.

^{20.}
RUFIOUS L.La Variole, *Buf. ois. v.* p. 63.Petite Alouette de Buenos Ayres, *Pl. enl.* 738. f. 1.

DESCRIPTION.

THIS is five inches and a quarter long. The bill eight lines, and brown: the top of the head and upper part of the body blackish, mixed with various tints of rufous: the fore part of the neck enamelled with the same: the throat, and all the under parts of the body, white: the greater quills grey, the lesser brown; all of them edged with rufous: the tail feathers brown; the eight middle ones bordered with pale rufous; the two outmost with white: the legs yellowish.

PLACE.

We meet with this bird at *Buenos Ayres*, and elsewhere in the neighbourhood of the river *Plata*, in *South America*.

^{21.}
CINEREOUS L.La Cendrille, *Buf. ois. v.* p. 64. ?*Lev. Mus.*

DESCRIPTION.

LENGTH six inches. Bill three quarters of an inch: the nostrils placed in a soft membranous furrow, but the aperture very small and round: the plumage above, ash-colour: quills and tail dark brown: belly and vent white: the outer tail feathers white on the outside near the tip: legs dusky.

This I saw in the *Leverian* collection; but whence it came, not known.

Buffon mentions a bird, the description of which was taken from a drawing sent him from the *Cape of Good Hope*, which possibly might be the male of this. In his bird the top of the head was rufous, forming a kind of hood, which was bordered from the bill to beyond the eye with white: quills and tail black.

Le

Le Sirli du Cap de Bonne Esperance, *Buf. ois.* v. p. 65.—*Pl. enl.* 712.

^{22.}
AFRICAN L.

L E N G T H eight inches. Bill black, an inch long, and bent towards the point: the upper part of the body is composed of a mixture of brown, rufous, and white, in different shades*: the wing coverts, quills, and tail, brown, edged with white: the under part of the body white, marked with longitudinal brown spots: legs brown: the hind claw seven lines long, strait, and pointed at the end.

DESCRIPTION.

Inhabits the *Cape of Good Hope*.

PLACE.

Alauda cristata, *Lin. Syst.* i. p. 288. N° 6.—*Brun. orn.* p. 64. N° 228.—

Scop. ann. i. p. 128. N° 185.—*Kram. el.* p. 362.—*Mull.* p. 29.

N° 234.—*Georgi Reise*, p. 173.

L'Alouette hupée, ou le Cochevis, *Bris. orn.* iii. p. 357. N° 8.

Le Cochevis, ou la grosse Alouette huppée, *Buf. ois.* v. p. 66.—*Pl. enl.* 593, f. 1.

Alauda cristata major, *Raii Syn.* p. 69. N° 4.

Heide Lerche, *Frisch.* t. 15.

Lodola cappelluta, *Olin. uccel.* t. 13.

The Crested Lark, *Will. orn.* p. 208. pl. 40.—*Albin.* iii. pl. 52.

Br. Mus.

^{23.}
CRESTED L.

T H I S is bigger than the Sky-lark: length six inches and three quarters. Bill under three quarters of an inch, and brown: irides hazel: on the head is a crest, composed of several feathers, which are darker than the rest of the plumage, and nearly half an inch in length: the back is more cinereous, and

DESCRIPTION.

* Many of the feathers are dark brown in the middle, with rufous margins and white tips.

less.

less spotted, than in the common Lark: the rump almost destitute of spots: the breast and belly white, with a dash of yellow: the throat is spotted as in the common Lark: the tail is above two inches in length; the two outer feathers white on the outer edges, with a dash of red.

This description is from *Willughby*; who observes, that it differs from the common Lark, first, in bigness; secondly, in the crest; thirdly, in the colour of the back, which is less spotted, and not so beautiful; fourthly, in the measure of the tail, which in this bird is shorter; fifthly, that it soars not so much in the air, and when it mounts up, stays not so long there; sixthly, that it flies not in flocks, as they do; lastly, it is frequently seen about the banks of lakes and rivers.

PLACE AND
MANNERS.

This species is said to be found in several parts of *Europe*; in *Italy*, *Germany*, *France*, *Denmark*, and *Russia*: but I do not find it in these kingdoms*, nor does *Linnaeus* mention it as belonging to *Sweden*.

It sings well, like the Sky-lark: lays four or five eggs, hatching them in a careless manner; and, if choice is to be had, prefers the neighbourhood of *junipers* to be beneath. It is said to hatch twice in a year.

* *Sibbald* mentions it to have been met with in *Scotland*, but not on sufficient grounds to place it in the *Br. Zool.*

La petite Alouette hupée, *Bris. orn.* iii. p. 361. N° 9.

Le Lulu, ou la petite Alouette huppée, *Buf. ois.* v. p. 74.—*Pl. enl.* 503. f. 2.

Alauda cristata minor, *Raii Syn.* p. 69. A. 5.

Lesser Crested Lark, *Will. orn.* p. 207.—*Br. Zool.* i. N° 141.

^{24.}
LESSER
CRESTED L.

THIS is less than the last species. *Aldrovandus* * is the only one who describes it; who merely observes, that it is not so brown as the Greater Crested Lark, and the tuft on the head larger in proportion to the size of the bird, and that the legs are red. It is said likewise, that it flies in flocks, contrary to the Greater Crested Lark, which is seldom seen but alone. It is for the most part met with in woods and thickets, where it makes its nest.

DESCRIPTION.

This has been met with in *Italy*, *Austria*, *Poland*, and *Silesia*; as also in the northern parts of *England*, being said to be found in plenty in *Yorkshire*.

PLACE.

La Coquillade, *Buf. ois.* v. p. 77.—*Pl. enl.* 662.

^{25.}
UNDATED
L.

THIS is six inches and three quarters long. The bill nearly an inch long, and rather stout; brown above, and whitish beneath: on the crown is a crest, which it can erect at pleasure; the feathers which compose this are black, with white edges: the plumage on the upper parts of the head and body is blackish and pale rufous mixed: the greater wing coverts tipped with white: the wing and tail feathers brown, with pale rufous edges, a few of the wing feathers excepted, which are margined or tipped with white: the throat, and all the under parts of the body,

DESCRIPTION.

* *Orn.* ii. p. 371.

white,

white, marked with blackish spots on the neck and breast: the legs are yellowish.

PLACE.

This species was sent to *Buffon* from *Provence*, where it ushers in the morn by its song. The male and female are constant companions, whether in the time of incubation, or in search of food; which consists of caterpillars, grasshoppers, snails, and such like. The above author mentions it as a new species, not before described: indeed there has been a Lark brought from the *Cape of Good Hope*, which differed not materially from this, except in wanting the crest, the under parts more inclined to yellow, and no white either in the wings or tail—differences too trivial to forbid our placing it here, either as a female of that above described, or a young bird.

26.
SENEGAL L.

L'Alouette hupée du Sénégal, *Bris. orn.* iii. p. 362. N^o 10. pl. 19. f. 2.

La Grifette ou le Cochevis du Senegal, *Buf. ois.* v. p. 79.—*Pl. enl.* 504. f. 1.

DESCRIPTION.

LENGTH six inches and a half. Bill nine lines and a half long, and of an horn-colour: the head is slightly crested: the colour of the plumage on the upper parts is grey and brown mixed, each feather being brown in the middle, with grey edges: the under parts whitish, marked with small spots of brown on the throat: the sides and under the wings incline to rufous: the quills are grey brown, with grey edges; but at the base, for two thirds of their length, are rufous within: the two middle tail feathers are grey, the others brown, but the outer one rufous white for nearly the whole breadth; the next to this has the outer edge of the same colour: the legs and claws grey.

PLACE.

This is found at *Senegal*.

^{27.}
TESTACEOUS
L.

DESCRIPTION.

BILL black: upper parts of the body testaceous: crown of the head dashed with black: the wing coverts marked with the same: the under parts of the body testaceous white: quills dusky; the secondaries deeply margined with testaceous; the edges of the greater pale: four of the middle tail feathers marked as the quills; the others testaceous white: legs yellow: hind claw a trifle incurvated.

Inhabits *Gibraltar* *.

PLACE.

^{28.}
PORTUGAL L.

DESCRIPTION.

BILL stout, white, with a dusky tip: upper part of the plumage cream-colour; each feather dusky brown in the middle: coverts and quills edged with grey: the under parts are yellowish white, deepest on the breast: tail as the upper parts; some † of the outer feathers yellowish white: legs flesh-colour: claws dusky.

Inhabits *Portugal*.

PLACE.

* *Mr. Pennant*.

† As this description was taken from a drawing, the number could not be ascertained. *Mr. Pennant*.

GENUS XL. WAGTAIL.

N° 1. White W.

Var. A. Collared W.

2. Pied W.

3. Cinereous W.

4. Grey W.

Var. A. Javan W.

5. Indian W.

N° 6. Yellow W.

Var. A. Timor W.

7. Yellow-headed W.

8. Cape W.

9. African W.

10. Tchutschu W.

11. Green W.

BILL weak and slender; slightly notched at the tip.

Tongue lacerated at the end.

Legs slender.

Birds of this genus frequent the sides of brooks: have long tails, which are frequently in motion: their pace running: for the most part fly in an undulating manner, especially if to any distance: seldom perch, and have a twittering noise in flight*: make the nest on or very near the ground.

I believe the whole of this genus is confined to the old continent, and the isles adjacent.

* *Scopoli*.—I have frequently observed this in our species.

- Motacilla alba*, *Lin. Syst.* i. p. 331. N° 11.—*Faun. Suec.* 252.—*Scop. ann.* i. N° 224.—*Brun.* N° 271.—*Muller*, N° 272.—*Kram. el.* p. 373. N° 1. —*Frisch.* t. 23. f. 4.—*Olin.* pl. in p. 43.—*Georgi Reise*, p. 174.
 La Lavandiere, *Bris. orn.* iii. 461. N° 38.—*Busf. ois.* v. p. 251. pl. 14. f. 1.—*Pl. enl.* 652. f. 1.—*Variety*, f. 2.
 White Water-Wagtail, *Raii Syn.* 75. A. 1.—*Will. orn.* p. 237.—*Albin.* i. pl. 49.—*Br. Zool.* i. N° 142. pl. 55.—*Art. Zool.*
Br. Mus. *Lev. Mus.*

I.
+ WHITE W.

THE length of this species is seven inches, of which the tail is one half. The bill is black: irides hazel: the hind part of the head, and nape of the neck, are black: the forehead, round the eyes, and sides of the neck, are white: the chin, fore part of the neck, and breast, black: the upper parts of the body, wing coverts, and rump, are cinereous: greater wing coverts, and secondary quills, dusky, edged with grey: greater quills blackish; the secondaries and prime quills nearly of a length: the lower parts of the breast and belly are white: the eight middle tail feathers are black, edged with grey; the others are white, except at the base, and tips of the inner webs, which are dusky: the legs are black.

DESCRIPTION.

In the *female* the top of the head inclines to brown.

FEMALE.

Some birds have only a crescent of black on the breast, the chin and throat being quite white.

These birds frequent watery places for the most part, feeding on flies and other insects. Make their nest on the ground, composed of dry grass, fine fibres of roots, and moss, lined within with hair or feathers. The eggs are five in number, white, spotted with brown; and for the most part have only one brood in a year. It is often seen running on the ground, which it does

PLACE AND MANNERS.

very quick, leaping up frequently after the flies, &c. which are too high for their catching on the ground.

It is a species very far spread, being found throughout the whole of the old continent*. It is mentioned by authors as migratory for the most part; with us it shifts its quarters to the south, as the winter approaches, and I believe part of them migrate, as I do not recollect seeing so many in winter as the summer season. In *Scotland*, and in the north of *England*, scarce ever seen in the hard weather.

This, and others of this class, are called, both by the *French* and ourselves, *Washer-women*, or *Dish-washers*.

In the *Leverian Museum* is a fine variety; white, except the hind parts, which are yellowish.

La Bergeronette à Collier de l'Isle de Luçon, *Son. Voy.* p. 61. t. 29.

Lew. Mus.

I.
VAR. A.
COLLARED W.
DESCRIPTION.

SIZE of our Wagtail. Bill black: irides hazel: forehead, as far as the crown, round the bill, and the cheeks and throat, are white: hind part of the head and neck, the lower part of the neck before, and breast, black: the back is ash-colour: across the wing is an oblique bar of white, beginning at the bastard wing: the quills are black, edged with white; the outer ones wholly black: the tail is black, except the two outer feathers, which are white: legs black.

PLACE.

Inhabits the island of *Luçonia*. I have also seen one which came from *Kamtschatka*, now in the possession of *Sir Joseph Banks*.

* I have met with this more than once in *Chinese* drawings.

Le

La Bergeronette de Madrast, *Bris. orn.* iii. p. 478. N^o 44.—*Buf. ois.* v. 275.

Black and White Wagtail, *Raii Syn.* p. 194. 3. pl. 1. f. 1.

Forked Wagtail, *Id.* N^o 4. pl. 1. f. 6.

^{2.}
PIED W.

BILL, head, neck, breast, and upper parts of the body, **DESCRIPTION.**
black: the under parts white: there is also an oblique band of white cross the wing: the middle tail feathers are black, and some of the outer ones white, but how many of each is not manifest from either description or figure.

The *forked Wagtail* is most likely the *female*, as it differs merely in having those parts ash-colour which are black in the *male*.

FEMALE.

These inhabit *Madras*.

PLACE.

La Bergeronette grise, *Bris. orn.* iii. p. 465. N^o 39. pl. 25. f. 1.—*Buf. ois.* v. p. 261.—*Pl. enl.* 674. 1.

^{3.}
CINEREOUS W.

SOMEWHAT less than the last: length six inches three **DESCRIPTION.**
quarters. Bill brown: the upper parts of the head, neck, and body, cinereous grey: the under white: across the breast a brownish band: wing coverts and secondaries blackish, edged with whitish: greater quills blackish brown: the tail dusky black, but the outer feather is white, except the base half of the inner web; the second the same, but the webs are white only for one-third of their length, and the inner web black at the end: legs brown.

The *female* wants the band on the breast.

FEMALE.

We have not this in *England*, though authors talk of it as common on the continent, where it is frequently seen in the summer,

PLACE AND MANNERS.

summer, in some numbers, in the pastures among cattle; retiring to the streams when the flies in the first become scarce. Part of these only are supposed to migrate.

It differs somewhat from ours in making the nest, which it does on some low willow near the ground, and hatches twice in the year.

+ GREY W.

Motacilla boarula, *Lin. Mant.* 1771. p. 527.—*Scop. ann.* i. N° 225.

La Bergeronette jaune, *Bris. orn.* iii. p. 471. N° 41. pl. 23. f. 3. (the male).

—*Buf. ois.* v. 268.—*Pl. enl.* 28. f. 1.

Motacilla flava altera, *Raii Syn.* 75. 3.

Yellow Wagtail, *Albin.* ii. pl. 58. (female.)

Grey Wagtail, *Will. orn.* p. 238.—*Edw.* pl. 259. (the male.)—*Br. Zool.* i. N° 144.—*Arch. Zool.*

Br. Mus. *Lew. Mus.*

DESCRIPTION.

LENGTH seven inches and a half. Bill brown: the upper parts are greenish ash-colour: over the eye a pale streak: sides of the head ash-colour: chin and throat black: upper tail coverts, and whole of the under parts of the body, yellow: under tail coverts deep yellow: wing coverts brown, edged with ash-colour: quills brown; secondaries white at the base and brown at the ends, and almost as long as the greater quills: tail longest of all the species; the outer feather white; the next has the inside and tip white, the outside blackish; third nearly the same, but has the inner edge black; the others black, with greenish edges: legs yellowish brown.

FEMALE.

The *female* has no black on the throat.

PLACE AND MANNERS.

This is a constant inhabitant of these kingdoms, frequenting watery places, and small streams, for the sake of insects, on which it feeds. The nest is on the ground, not far from the water,

water, composed of dried fibres and moss, lined with hair, feathers, or wool, within. The eggs are from six to eight in number, of a dirty white, marked with yellow spots.

This is a very elegant species, and found on the continent in various parts, and seems more hardy than the others. *Linnaeus* says it is gregarious, but with us is seen only single, except in pairing time. It is called at *Bologna* by the names of *Boarola*, or *Boarina*. It is also found at *Senegal* *.

La Bergeronette de Java, *Bris. orn.* iii. p. 474. N° 42. pl. 25. f. 2.—
Buf. ois. v. p. 272.

4.
VAR. A.
JAVAN W.

LENGTH seven inches. Bill grey: the head, upper parts of the body, and upper tail coverts, olive yellow: throat and neck grey: rest of the under parts yellow, deepest towards the vent: greater wing coverts brown: quills the same, but the secondaries are white half way from the base; the third quill from the body as long as the greater ones: the six middle tail feathers are blackish; the two next white within, and at the tip, the outer edge blackish; the outer one white, except for two-thirds down the shaft, where it is blackish: legs grey.

DESCRIPTION.

Inhabits the island of *Java*.

PLACE.

La Bergeronette grise des Indes. *Son. Voy. Ind.* vol. ii. p. 207.

5.
INDIAN W.
DESCRIPTION.

THE bill of this bird is pale rufous: irides yellow: the head, hind part of the neck, back, and rump, are dirty greenish grey: the throat, breast, and belly, very light yellow:

* *Adanson*.—He calls it the *Ortolan* of that country. He says that they are one lump of fat, and the taste excellent.



Latham, John, 1740-1837

A general synopsis of birds

Bd.: 2,2

London 1783

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